



## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

### Special Concurrent City Council/ Richfield School Board Worksession

**March 2, 2015**

#### CALL TO ORDER

The worksession was called to order by School Board Chair Toensing at 6 p.m. in the Richfield School District Board Room, 7001 Harriet Avenue.

#### ROLL CALL

<i>Council Members: Present:</i>	Debbie Goettel, Mayor; Pat Elliott; Edwina Garcia; Michael Howard; and Tom Fitzhenry.
<i>City Staff Present:</i>	Steven L. Devich, City Manager, Mike Eastling, Public Works Director; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Mike Koob, Deputy Public Safety Director; Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Services Director; Mike Dobesh, Assistant Fire Chief; Jim Topitzhofer, Recreation Services Director; and Pam Dmytrenko, Assistant City Manager.
<i>School Board Members Present:</i>	Peter Toensing, Chair; John Ashmead; Christine Maleck, Todd Nollenberger; and Tim Pollis.
<i>School District Staff Present:</i>	Steven Unowsky, Superintendent; Michael Schwartz, Business Director; Craig Holje, Business Director; Shirrie Jackson, Director; and Pat Vaughan, Executive Secretary.

A discussion was held about providing free community bus transportation possibly in a loop through Richfield for Richfield citizens to use for school functions, school conferences, student sports, shopping, doctor appointments, etc. An issue for this type of transportation is long term funding.

Superintendent Unowsky commended the City for their attention to code issues and safe, affordable housing. Richfield is still in need of safe, stable, affordable housing.

Mayor Goettel congratulated the School District on their graduation rates which was good news. She also spoke about issues of Richfield School District in areas of the City of Edina.

The School District is now in negotiations with Park Nicollet to provide a free school based health care center in the high school, and discussed what and who will likely be covered

in this facility. Mayor Goettel offered to write a letter of support for this project from her and the City Council.

Council Member Garcia talked about the Forum for Mental Health in Youth taking place Saturday March 14 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at the Richfield Municipal Center. The goal of the forum is to educate and inform people about mental illness and to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness. Peter Toensing talked about the merits of mental health first aid, which is an intervention for a mental health event.

Council Member Fitzhenry offered his services if the District has any problems with airport noise.

There was mention that major street improvements will be done. Mr. Unowsky asked for advance notice so that school bus routes could be adjusted.

Early education and universal PreK were discussed. These programs are challenging because there is no universal funding. Mr. Unowsky would like to see extra recruitment of families in poverty. He said transportation is again a challenge.

Public Safety talked about a student felony level probation center located at the 287 building on 75<sup>th</sup> and Penn. Pending approval by the County Commissioners, the center will open this spring or early summer. This is a 13 week program, and students are escorted to and from the center.

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58 p.m.

Date Approved: March 24, 2015

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Debbie Goettel, Mayor

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Cheryl Krumholz, Executive Coordinator

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Steven L. Devich, City Manager